

THE TWISTED GROUP ALGEBRA OF A FINITE NILPOTENT GROUP OVER A NUMBER FIELD

by HANS OPOLKA

(Received 15 August, 1977)

Introduction. Let G be a finite group with neutral element e which operates trivially on the multiplicative group R^* of a commutative ring with identity 1. Let $H^2(G, R^*) = Z^2(G, R^*)/B^2(G, R^*)$ denote the second cohomology group of G with respect to the trivial G -module R^* . With every factor system (2-cocycle) $f \in Z^2(G, R^*)$ we associate the so called (central) twisted group algebra (R, G, f) of G over R (see [4, Chapter V, 23.7] or [13, §4] for a definition). If f is cohomologous to f' , then the R -algebras (R, G, f) and (R, G, f') are isomorphic. Hence, up to R -algebra isomorphism, (R, G, f) is determined by the cohomology class $\bar{f} \in H^2(G, R^*)$ determined by f . If $R = k$ is a field of characteristic not dividing the order $|G|$ of G , then a computation of the discriminant of (k, G, f) shows that (k, G, f) is semisimple (see [13, 4.2]).

In this paper we develop a method which shows how to construct splitting fields of (k, G, f) in the case where k is a number field and G is nilpotent.

If $f = 1$ the algebra (k, G, f) is the ordinary group algebra. In this case the problem is completely solved by a well-known theorem of Roquette [12]. So we let $f \neq 1$ throughout. Partial results are contained in [1] and [9, §9].

Parts of this paper grew out of discussions with Professor F. Lorenz for which I would like to thank him very much.

1. Reduction to groups with nondegenerate center. We say that the finite nilpotent group G has a nondegenerate center $Z(G)$ with respect to the factor system $f \in Z^2(G, k^*)$ if the symplectic pairing $\omega : Z(G) \times Z(G) \rightarrow k^*$ determined by the restriction $f|_{Z(G)}$ is nondegenerate [13, 2.2]. We reduce our problem to such a group G .

So let us start with an arbitrary finite nilpotent group G , a number field k and a factor system $f \in Z^2(G, k^*)$. To compute the index of a simple component of (k, G, f) we may assume without loss of generality that the central subgroup

$$Z(f) = \{z \in Z(G) \mid f(g, z) = f(z, g) \text{ for all } g \in G\}$$

of G is trivial. Otherwise we consider the factor group $G/Z(f)$. We get a factor system $t \in Z^2(G/Z(f), (k, Z(f), f)^*)$ and an isomorphism of k -algebras $(k, G, f) \cong ((k, Z(f), f), G/Z(f), t)$ [11, Theorem 2.1].

Now we decompose $(k, Z(f), f)$ into a direct sum of fields $(k, Z(f), f) \cong \prod_i K_i$. We get factor systems $t_i \in Z^2(G/Z(f), K_i^*)$ and an isomorphism of k -algebras $(k, G, f) \cong \prod_i (K_i, G/Z(f), t_i)$. This isomorphism allows us to view a simple component of (k, G, f) as a simple component of one of the algebras $(K_i, G/Z(f), t_i)$, and the index of the first algebra over k equals the index of the second over K_i . So we may assume inductively that $Z(f)$ is

Glasgow Math. J. **20** (1979) 55–61.

trivial. (The above technique was first applied in a somewhat different context in [11] and was used in connection with splitting field questions in [9, §9].)

Now we consider the kernel

$$Z_f = \{z \in Z(G) \mid f(z, z') = f(z', z) \text{ for all } z' \in Z(G)\}$$

of the symplectic pairing $\omega : Z(G) \times Z(G) \rightarrow k^*$, and the subgroup

$$Z^f = \{g \in G \mid f(g, z) = f(z, g) \text{ for all } z \in Z_f\}$$

of G . The pairing $\omega_f : G \times Z_f \rightarrow k^*$ determined by f (see [13, §2]) yields a homomorphism $\omega_f(\cdot, z) : g \mapsto \omega_f(g, z)$ of G into k^* for every $z \in Z_f$, and Z^f is the intersection of the kernels of these homomorphisms; in particular, Z^f is a normal subgroup of G . Furthermore, the pairing $\omega_f : G \times Z_f \rightarrow k^*$ yields a nondegenerate pairing of $G/Z^f \times Z_f$ into k^* which is also denoted by ω_f . Since $Z(f)$ is trivial, we get a canonical isomorphism between G/Z^f and $\text{Hom}(Z_f, k^*)$ by mapping each $x \in G/Z^f$ to the linear character $\omega_f(x, \cdot)$ of Z_f . We note the following lemma.

LEMMA 1.1. *The group G/Z^f is canonically isomorphic to $\text{Hom}(Z_f, k^*)$. In particular, k contains a primitive root of unity of order $\exp Z_f$.*

Now let C be an algebraically closed field containing k . A simple character α of $C \otimes (k, Z_f, f)$, $\alpha \notin k$, yields an element of $\text{Hom}(Z_f, C^*/k^*)$, which we can take to be faithful without loss of generality. So all values of $\alpha^{\exp Z_f}$ belong to k . Hence by the second part of Lemma 1.1 the field $k(\alpha)$ is a Kummer extension of k . Hence by the second part of Lemma 1.1 the field $k(\alpha)$ is a Kummer extension of k . Multiplication of α by all the linear characters $\omega(x, \cdot) \in \text{Hom}(Z_f, k^*)$, where $x \in G/Z^f$, yields exactly all k -automorphisms of $k(\alpha)$. Hence we have the next lemma.

LEMMA 1.2. *If α is a simple character of $C \otimes (k, Z_f, f)$ then the field $k(\alpha)$ is a Kummer extension of k with Galois group $\mathcal{G}(\alpha)$ canonically isomorphic to G/Z^f .*

Now let χ be a simple character of $C \otimes (k, G, f)$ with values in k and let α be a simple component of $\text{Res}_{Z_f}^G(\chi)$. A short computation shows that the fixed group $I(\alpha)$ of α is equal to Z^f . Clifford's theory, which is also valid for representations of twisted group algebras, therefore yields a simple character ξ of $C \otimes (k, Z^f, f)$ such that $\chi = \text{Ind}_{Z^f}^G(\xi)$ and $\text{Res}_{Z^f}^{Z^f}(\xi) = l\alpha$ for some natural number l . The last condition shows that the center $k(\xi)$ of the simple component $\mathcal{A}(Z^f, \xi)$ of (k, Z^f, f) corresponding to ξ is equal to $k(\alpha)$. A simple application of Frobenius' law of reciprocity (see e.g. [9, 4.13]) establishes the next lemma.

LEMMA 1.3. *For every $x \in G/Z^f$ there is a σ in the Galois group $\mathcal{G}(\xi)$ of $k(\xi)$ over k such that $\xi^x = \xi^\sigma$.*

The following reduction theorem is contained in [3, 3.2] in a similar form for the case $f = 1$. The proof of it is easily carried over to the twisted case. For the convenience of the reader we recall the main steps.

LEMMA 1.4. *Let χ be a simple character of $C \otimes (k, G, f)$ with values in k . If the index of $\mathcal{A}(Z^f, \xi)$ is equal to 1 then $\mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$ is similar to a crossed product $\Gamma(k(\xi)/k, c)$ for a factor system $c : \mathcal{G}(\xi) \times \mathcal{G}(\xi) \rightarrow k(\xi)^*$ in the sense of Galois cohomology.*

Proof. Let $\tilde{c}_{\sigma,\tau} = s_{\sigma} s_{\tau} s_{\sigma\tau}^{-1}$ be a factor system associated with the extension $1 \rightarrow Z^f \rightarrow G \rightarrow \mathcal{G}(\xi) \rightarrow 1$, let $\{e_g \mid g \in G\}$ be a canonical k -basis of (k, G, f) and let $\beta : (k, Z^f, f) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(Z^f, \xi)$ be the k -algebra epimorphism associated with ξ . G operates on $\mathcal{A}(Z^f, \xi)$ according to $i_g(\beta(e_n)) = \beta(e_g e_n e_g^{-1})$ for all $n \in Z^f, g \in G$. Consider the following algebra of rank $(k(\alpha) : k)$ over $\mathcal{A}(Z^f, \xi) \cong \text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k(\xi))$: $U = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}(\xi)} \text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k(\xi)) u_{\sigma}$ with multiplication rules $u_{\sigma} a u_{\sigma}^{-1} = i_{s_{\sigma}}(a), a \in \text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k(\xi)), u_{\sigma} u_{\tau} = \beta(e_{s_{\sigma\tau}}) u_{\sigma\tau}$. The map γ of (k, G, f) into U defined by $\gamma(e_{ns_{\sigma}}) = f(n, s_{\sigma})^{-1} \beta(e_n) u_{\sigma}$, for all $g = ns_{\sigma} \in G$, is an epimorphism of k -algebras. It is obvious that $U \cong \mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$. $\mathcal{G}(\xi)$ operates on $\text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k(\xi))$ as it operates on the coefficients of a matrix, i.e. as it operates on ξ .

The map $\sigma^{-1} \circ i_{s_{\sigma}} : \text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k(\xi)) \rightarrow \text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k(\xi))$ is a $k(\xi)$ -automorphism by Lemma 1.3. By a well-known theorem of Skolem-Noether there is an invertible matrix $B_{\sigma} \in \text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k(\xi))$ such that, for all $\alpha \in \text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k(\xi))$, we have $(\sigma^{-1} \circ i_{s_{\sigma}})(\alpha) = B_{\sigma}^{-1} \alpha B_{\sigma}$. Set $C_{\sigma} = \sigma(B_{\sigma})$. Then we have $i_{s_{\sigma}}(a) = C_{\sigma}^{-1} a C_{\sigma}$. Setting $v_{\sigma} = C_{\sigma} u_{\sigma}$, we have $v_{\sigma} a v_{\sigma}^{-1} = \sigma(a)$ and $v_{\sigma} v_{\tau} = c_{\sigma,\tau} v_{\sigma\tau}$ for a factor system c of $\mathcal{G}(\xi) \times \mathcal{G}(\xi)$ into $k(\xi)^*$ in the sense of Galois cohomology. The crossed product $\Gamma(k(\xi)/k, c) = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in \mathcal{G}(\xi)} k(\xi) v_{\sigma}$ with respect to c is a subalgebra of U with centralizer $\text{Mat}_{\xi(1)}(k)$.

We shall call crossed product algebras of the type described in Lemma 1.4, *Kummer algebras*.

COROLLARY 1.5. *The index of $\mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$ is equal to the index of $\Gamma(k(\xi)/k, c)$.*

Now let the index m of $\mathcal{A}(Z^f, \xi)$ be greater than 1. Form the m -fold direct product $G^{(m)} = G \times \dots \times G$, the (outer) product $f^{(m)} = f \times \dots \times f$ and the (outer tensor) product $\xi^{(m)} = \xi \times \dots \times \xi$. Then we have $\mathcal{A}(Z^{f(m)}, \xi^{(m)}) \cong \mathcal{A}(Z^f, \xi) \otimes_{k(\xi)} \dots \otimes_{k(\xi)} \mathcal{A}(Z^f, \xi)$, $k(\xi^{(m)}) = k(\xi)$, $\chi^{(m)} = \text{Ind}_{Z^{f(m)}}^{G^{(m)}}(\xi^{(m)})$ and the index of $\mathcal{A}(Z^{f(m)}, \xi^{(m)})$ is equal to 1. Hence there is a factor system c_m of $\mathcal{G}(\xi) \times \mathcal{G}(\xi)$ into $k(\xi)^*$ such that the index of $\mathcal{A}(G^{(m)}, \chi^{(m)})$ is equal to the index κ of $\Gamma(k(\xi)/k, c_m)$. Hence the index of $\mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$ is equal to κm .

If the kernel of the symplectic pairing of $Z(Z^f) \times Z(Z^f)$ into k^* determined by $f|_{Z(Z^f)}$ is not trivial, we repeat the whole process. After r steps we arrive at a group M with nondegenerate center with respect to a factor system f' of $M \times M$ into a certain field extension L of k . At each step we get a Kummer algebra of the type described above. More precisely, we have proved the following lemma.

LEMMA 1.6. *The index of $\mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$ is equal to the product of the index of a simple component $\mathcal{A}(M, \rho)$ of a twisted group algebra (L, M, f') , where the group M has a nondegenerate center with respect to f' , with the indices of a certain number of Kummer algebras. The number of these Kummer algebras is equal to the number of reduction steps which are used to arrive at a group with nondegenerate center.*

2. Groups with nondegenerate center. Now let the finite nilpotent group have a nondegenerate center with respect to a factor system $f \in Z^2(G, k^*)$. Let φ be a simple character of $C \otimes (k, Z(G), f)$ which occurs as constituent of the restriction of a simple character χ of $C \otimes (k, G, f)$ to $Z(G)$. We assume $k(\chi) = k$. By [13, Proposition 4.1], the

k -algebra $(k, Z(G), f)$ is central simple, i.e. $\mathcal{A}(Z(G), \varphi) \cong (k, Z(G), f)$. Therefore $I(\varphi) = G$. Clifford's theory yields a factor system $\tilde{f} \in Z^2(G/Z(G), k^*)$ and a simple character $\tilde{\chi}$ of $C \otimes (k, G/Z(G), \tilde{f})$ such that $k(\tilde{\chi}) = k$ and $\mathcal{A}(G, \chi) \cong \mathcal{A}(Z(G), \varphi) \otimes_k \mathcal{A}(G/Z(G), \tilde{\chi})$ (see [5, §2]); the statements there refer to the ordinary group algebra but the proofs remain unchanged in the twisted case.

If $G/Z(G)$ is not abelian, we can repeat the whole reduction process from the beginning. Let us put our results together in the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.1. *Let G be a finite nilpotent group with nondegenerate center with respect to $f \in Z^2(G, k^*)$, let χ be a simple character of $C \otimes (k, G, f)$ with values in k and let φ be a simple character of $C \otimes (k, Z(G), f)$ which occurs as a constituent of $\text{Res}_{Z(G)}^G(\chi)$. Then there is a (central) factor system $\tilde{f} \in Z^2(G/Z(G), k^*)$ and a simple character $\tilde{\chi}$ of $C \otimes (k, G/Z(G), \tilde{f})$ such that the central simple k -algebras $\mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$ and $(k, Z(G), f) \otimes_k \mathcal{A}(G/Z(G), \tilde{\chi})$ are isomorphic.*

3. Central simple twisted group algebras of abelian groups. The preceding results, especially Lemmas 1.6 and 2.1, have shown the importance of the following two types of algebras: (I) central simple twisted group algebras of abelian groups, (II) crossed products of Kummer extensions with respect to factor systems in the sense of Galois cohomology.

LEMMA 3.1. *Every cyclic Kummer algebra is a central simple twisted group algebra of an abelian group.*

Proof. Let $\Gamma(K/k, c)$ be a Kummer algebra. Suppose that $K = k(\sqrt[n]{a})$ is a cyclic extension of k with Galois group $\mathcal{G} = \langle \sigma \rangle$. Then $\Gamma(K/k, c) \cong \Gamma(K/k, \sigma, b)$, $b = \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} c_{\sigma, \sigma^j}$.

Choose a primitive n th root of unity ξ in k . Then we may describe $\Gamma(K/k, c)$ by generators $(\sqrt[n]{a})^i, (\sqrt[n]{b})^j, 0 \leq i, j \leq n-1$, with relations $(\sqrt[n]{a})(\sqrt[n]{b}) = \xi(\sqrt[n]{b})(\sqrt[n]{a})$. $\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G}$ operates on $\Gamma(K/k, \sigma, b)$ in an obvious way as a group of k -algebra automorphisms. It fixes exactly the center k . So by [13, 7.4] there is a (central) factor system $f \in Z^2(\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G}, k^*)$ such that $\Gamma(K/k, \sigma, b) \cong (k, \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G}, f)$.

We see that it is important to know the structure of central simple twisted group algebras of abelian groups. So let G be an abelian group, $f \in Z^2(G, k^*)$ such that the symplectic pairing $\omega : G \times G \rightarrow k^*$ associated with f is nondegenerate. We decompose the ‘‘symplectic space’’ (G, ω) into an orthogonal direct product of ‘‘hyperbolic planes’’ $(G, \omega) \cong \prod_i (\mathbb{Z}(m_i) \times \mathbb{Z}(m_i), \omega_i)$, see [14, Theorem 3.8]. It follows that $(k, G, f) \cong \otimes_i (k, \mathbb{Z}(m_i) \times \mathbb{Z}(m_i), f)$. Let

$$\mathbb{Z}(m_i) \times \mathbb{Z}(m_i) \cong \langle x_i \rangle \times \langle y_i \rangle, \quad c(x_i) = \prod_{\nu=1}^{m_i-1} f(x_i, x_i^\nu), \quad c(y_i) = \prod_{\mu=1}^{m_i-1} f(y_i, y_i^\mu).$$

Then, choosing a primitive m_i th root of unity ξ_i in k , we may describe $(k, \mathbb{Z}(m_i) \times \mathbb{Z}(m_i), f)$ by generators

$$(\sqrt[m_i]{c(x_i)})^k, \quad (\sqrt[m_i]{c(y_i)})^l, \quad 0 \leq k, l \leq m_i - 1$$

with relations

$$(\sqrt[m]{c(x_i)})(\sqrt[m]{c(y_i)}) = \xi_i(\sqrt[m]{c(y_i)})(\sqrt[m]{c(x_i)}).$$

It follows that the index of this algebra divides m_i . m_i divides the order w of the group of roots of unity in k . Since k is a number field, the index equals the exponent in the Brauer group and we see that the w th exponent of the class of (k, G, f) in the Brauer group of k is trivial. Hence we have proved the next theorem.

THEOREM 3.3. *The index of a central simple twisted group algebra of an abelian group over a number field k divides the order of the group of roots of unity in k .*

Let $\text{Br}_w(k)$ denote the subgroup of the Brauer group of k whose elements have orders dividing w and let W denote the group of roots of unity in k . It is proved in algebraic K -theory (Bass, Tate) that there is an isomorphism $h_1: K_2k/wK_2k \rightarrow W \otimes \text{Br}_w(k)$. Hence (k, G, f) determines an element of K_2k/wK_2k which may be represented not just by a product of symbols but actually by a symbol, see [7]. Call this symbol $\{f_1, f_2\}_G$. The structure of (k, G, f) , especially its splitting properties, is determined completely by $\{f_1, f_2\}_G \pmod{wK_2k}$, which in turn may be “computed explicitly” with the aid of the local norm residue symbols $\left(\frac{f_1, f_2}{\mathfrak{p}}\right)$ for all primes \mathfrak{p} of k , see [6].

4. An estimation for the Schur index. Now we are in a position to determine the index of a simple component of a twisted group algebra (k, G, f) of the finite nilpotent group G over a number field k , at least in principle, because by Lemmas 1.6, 2.1 and 3.1 this problem may be reduced to the case of a central simple twisted group algebra of an abelian group which is determined by a symbol. The formulation of a complete result is left to the reader. We content ourselves with some examples in Section 5 and the following simple estimation for the Schur index which follows directly from the above discussion.

THEOREM 4.1. *There is a radical extension L of k which is determined by the reduction process described in Lemmas 1.6 and 2.1 such that, for a simple component $\mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$ of (k, G, f) , the algebra $L \otimes_{k(\chi)} \mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$ is similar to a tensor product of central simple twisted group algebras of abelian groups. In particular, by Theorem 3.2, the index of $\mathcal{A}(G, \chi)$ divides $(L:k)w_L$, where w_L denotes the order of the group of roots of unity in L .*

5. Examples. As first example we consider an abelian group G . Let N be the kernel of the symplectic pairing $\omega: G \times G \rightarrow k^*$ associated with $f \in Z^2(G, k^*)$. Let $\bar{G} = G/N$. Then ω defines a nondegenerate pairing from $\bar{G} \times \bar{G}$ to k^* which is also denoted by ω . Let $(k, N, f) \cong \prod_i K_i$ be a decomposition into a direct sum of fields. By Reid’s reduction process described in Section 1 there are factor systems $t_i: \bar{G} \times \bar{G} \rightarrow K_i^*$ such that $(k, G, f) \cong \prod_i (K_i, \bar{G}, t_i)$. It follows from the explicit construction of the t_i that the pairing determined by them is ω . From this and Theorem 3.2 we conclude that the index of a simple component (K_i, \bar{G}, t_i) divides w , the order of the group of roots of unity of k . Moreover, we get a norm criterion for the splitting of (K_i, \bar{G}, t_i) see [9, 9.17].

Now let $G = P$ be an extra special p -group, i.e. the center $Z(P)$ of P has order p and

coincides with the commutator subgroup P' of P and P/P' is isomorphic to a direct product of $2m$ copies of $\mathbb{Z}(p)$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Let $f \in Z^2(P, k^*)$. In studying the index of a simple component of (k, P, f) we shall make use of the results in [10]. We have either $Z(f) = P'$ or $Z(f) = \{e\}$.

In the first case we have, by Reid's reduction process, in the usual notation: $(k, P, f) \cong X_i(K_i, P/P', t_i)$. The index of a simple component of (k, P, f) over k is equal to the index of a simple component of some $(K_i, P/P', t_i)$ over K_i . Since P/P' is abelian, we can apply the results of the abelian case.

If $Z(f) = \{e\}$ then, by [10, (1.2)], the group P is the nonabelian group of order p^3 and exponent p if $p \neq 2$, and the dihedral group of order 8 if $p = 2$. Therefore $Z_f \cong \mathbb{Z}(p)$, $Z^f \cong \mathbb{Z}(p) \times \mathbb{Z}(p)$. Let α be a simple character of $C \otimes(k, Z_f, f)$ which occurs as a constituent in the restriction of a simple character χ of $C \otimes(k, G, f)$ to Z_f . Let $k(\chi) = k$, $K = k(\alpha)$. Let ξ be a simple character of $C \otimes(k, Z^f, f)$ which induces χ and $\xi|_{Z_f} = l\alpha$, $l \in \mathbb{N}$. Since $Z^f/Z_f \cong \mathbb{Z}(p)$ is cyclic we have $l = 1$. Hence ξ is one-dimensional. Since $k(\xi) = k(\alpha)$, ξ is realisable over K and by Theorem 1.4 the simple component $\mathcal{A}(P, \chi)$ belonging to χ is similar to a cyclic Kummer algebra $\Gamma(K/k, c)$. The index of this algebra is either equal to 1 or to p because $\chi(1) = p$. A norm criterion for $\Gamma(K/k, c)$ determines which case actually occurs.

The final example is concerned with a metacyclic p -group P , $p \neq 2$. Let $\mathcal{A}(P, \chi)$ be a simple component of (k, P, f) with $k(\chi) = k$. We have $(k, P, f) \cong X_i(K_i, \bar{P}, t_i)$, where \bar{P} has a non-degenerate center with respect to t_i , see [8, (5.3)]. The index of $\mathcal{A}(P, \chi)$ is equal to the index of a simple component $\mathcal{A}(\bar{P}, \bar{\chi})$ of some (K_i, \bar{P}, t_i) . We have $K_i = k$ because of our assumption $k(\chi) = k$. By Lemma 2.1, we have $\mathcal{A}(\bar{P}, \bar{\chi}) \cong \mathcal{A}(Z(\bar{P}), \varphi) \otimes_{k'} \mathcal{A}(\bar{P}/Z(\bar{P}), \bar{\chi})$ for some (central) factor system $\bar{f} \in Z^2(\bar{P}/Z(\bar{P}), k^*)$, a simple character $\bar{\chi}$ of $C \otimes(k, \bar{P}/Z(\bar{P}), \bar{f})$ and a simple character φ of $C \otimes(k, Z(\bar{P}), f)$ which occurs as constituent of the restriction of $\bar{\chi}$ to $Z(\bar{P})$. Continuing this process we get a norm criterion for the splitting of $\mathcal{A}(P, \chi)$ and as upper estimation for its index the order of the group of roots of unity of $k(\chi) = k$.

6. The general case. Let G be an arbitrary finite group and $f \in Z^2(G, k^*)$. To construct splitting fields for (k, G, f) we may proceed as follows: at first we choose an extension K of k such that every K -elementary subgroup of G is elementary (in particular nilpotent). We may take for K the field $k(\{\xi_p \mid p \mid |G|\})$, ξ_p a primitive p th root of unity. By [9, (9.2)] we have: a simple component of $K \otimes(k, G, f)$ has index 1 over $L \supseteq K$ if for every elementary subgroup H of G all simple components of $K \otimes(k, H, f)$ have index 1 over L . Probably the step from k to K is not "sharp enough". To answer these questions we have to compute the defect set belonging to (k, G, f) in the sense of axiomatic representation theory.

REFERENCES

1. L. F. Barannik, On the Schur index of projective representations of finite groups, *Math. USSR-Sb.* **15** (1971), 109–120.

2. A. H. Clifford, Representations induced in an invariant subgroup, *Ann. of Math.*, **38** (1937), 533–550.
3. J.-M. Fontaine, Sur la decomposition des algèbres de groupes, *Ann. Sci. Écolé Norm. Sup.* (4) **4** (1971), 121–180.
4. B. Huppert, *Endliche Gruppen I* (Springer, 1967).
5. G. J. Janusz, Some remarks on Clifford's theorem and the Schur index, *Pacific J. Math.* **32** (1970), 119–129.
6. M. Kneser, Zum expliziten Reziprozitätsgesetz von I. R. Šafarevič, *Math. Nachr.* **6** (1951/52), 89–96.
7. H. W. Lenstra Jr., K_2 of a global field consists of symbols, *Algebraic K-theory, Evanston 1976*, Lecture Notes in Math. 551 (Springer, 1976).
8. H. N. Ng, Faithful irreducible projective representations of metacyclic groups, *J. Algebra* **38** (1976), 8–28.
9. H. Opolka, *Rationalitätsfragen bei projektiven Darstellungen endlicher Gruppen*, Dissertation, Univ. Münster (1976); to appear in parts in *Arch. Math. (Basel)* and *J. Algebra*.
10. H. Opolka, Projective representations of extra-special p -groups, *Glasgow Math. J.* **19** (1978), 149–152.
11. A. Reid, Twisted group rings which are semiprime Goldie rings, *Glasgow Math. J.* **16** (1975), 1–11.
12. P. Roquette, Realisierung von Darstellungen endlicher nilpotenter Gruppen, *Arch. Math. (Basel)* **9** (1958), 241–150.
13. K. Yamazaki, On projective representations and ring extension of finite groups, *J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo Sect. I* **10** (1964), 147–195.
14. E. M. Žmud, Symplectic geometries over finite abelian groups, *Math. USSR-Sb.* **86** (1971), 9–34.

MATHEMATISCHES INSTITUT DER UNIVERSITÄT MÜNSTER
ROXELERSTRASSE 64
4400 MÜNSTER